**Foundations of American Education Chapter 2 & 3 Reflection**

After reading *“Foundations of American Education”*, specifically chapters 2 and 3, I can definitely say that I now consider myself lucky to be educated in the period of time that we are in now. In today’s world, education covers broad spectrums. But for the most part, especially in the United States, I believe education is too much about grades and not about how one can better themselves through education. Thankfully, we have the luxury of the internet which nobody had in earlier times. Education in the middle ages was horrendous and essentially non-existent. While Education was in its transition between 1300 and 1700, education gained a foothold but many people were left back. This was the start of trends that continued throughout history.

I found it surprising when I realized the human race would be much more advanced without the dark ages of 400-1,000 AD. For 600 years educations and the sciences hardly progresses at all. This life didn’t matter as it was just a mere training ground for heaven. I found that very sad, almost anger inducing because it directly affected the course of human history for the worse. Interestingly enough, this trend continued all the way to the beginnings of our country. The Puritans in Colonial America wanted to live life in a religious, even superstitious way. Anything not taught in the bible shouldn’t be taught at all they thought, which is a shame for the kids of the time. Thankfully we have come far since then.

Although the law is widely criticized for good reasons, it was interesting to me that there has not always been a “No Child Left Behind” like law. This ensures that every child in America is entitled to an education. I suppose it makes sense that this was a late addition due to racial and gender limitations and prejudices of the time. Overall it is good that America as well as the world has advanced its education programs, even if they are by no means perfect.

Additionally I would like to reflect on the “*NEA Today”* article titled “Is Teaching Manners a Good Use of Classroom Time?” My personal stance on the issue is no, manners should not be taught in the classroom. Yes, I believe the students should be taught to have a basic respect for one another and everyone. Additionally, if a student is not acting this way they should be reprimanded. However manners should be taught in the home or learned by themselves. If everyone is taught to act the same way, progress won’t be made and there will be a sameness in all the students. People develop when they interact with people who think or act differently, and developing who you are is what education is really all about.